

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A honeycomb structure comprising:

a plurality of through channels extending to an axial direction of a honeycomb structure, porous partition walls separating through channels from one another, and a plurality of plugging portions plugging at least one of a first end and a second end of the plurality of through channels, predetermined ones of the plurality of through channels being plugged by said plugging portions at the first end and other ones of the plurality of through channels being plugged by said plugging portions at the second end; said plugging portion plugging predetermined through channels at one end and the rest of through channels at other end opposite to the plugged end of the predetermined through channels,

wherein at least a part of predetermined crossing portions of the porous partition walls is discontinued to form a void portion in each of the predetermined crossing portions, the void portions extending along a length direction and the length direction extending substantially from the first end to the second end. portions.

2. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the void portions are formed along a whole length of the honeycomb structure at predetermined positions at a regular interval.

3. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a gap width of the void portion is in a range of 0.2 to 1 mm.

4. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a gap width of the void portion is in a range of 0.4 to 0.8 mm.

5. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a gap width of the void portion at the vicinity of an outer peripheral portion of the honeycomb structure is larger than that of the void portion in a central portion seen from one of end faces of the honeycomb structure.

6. (Currently Amended) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the partition wall having no void portion and extending without having a discontinued portion in a predetermined direction is larger than that of the partition wall having the void portion and a discontinued portion defined by the void portion in a section of the honeycomb structure crossing at right angles to thea length direction.

7. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 6, wherein the thickness of the partition wall having no void portion and extending without having a discontinued portion in the predetermined direction is 1.05 to 1.5 times that of the partition wall having the void portion and the discontinued portion defined by the void portion in the section of the honeycomb structure crossing at right angles to the length direction.

8. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 6, wherein the thickness of the partition wall having no void portion and extending without having a discontinued portion in the predetermined direction is 1.1 to 1.3 times that of the partition wall having the void portion and a discontinued portion defined by the void portion in the section of the honeycomb structure crossing at right angles to the length direction.

9. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a sectional shape of the through channel is any one of a triangular shape, a quadrangular shape, a hexagonal shape, and a circular shape.

10. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a sectional shape of the through channel is a quadrangular shape, the void portion is regularly formed at

every other crossing portion of partition walls disposed adjacent to one another, and only one gap is formed by the void portion in each of predetermined through channels.

11. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1 is used as a filter for trapping/collecting/ removing particulate materials included in dust-containing fluids such as an exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine by virtue of a filterability of the partition walls.

12. (Original) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the honeycomb structure is made of a material, as a major crystal phase, containing any one selected from the group consisting of cordierite, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, alumina, mullite, and LAS.

13.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) The honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined ones of the plurality of through channels are alternatively arranged with the other ones of the plurality of through channels.